

last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. McDERMOTT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 328. Concurrent resolution recognizing and honoring the United States Armed Forces and supporting the goals and objectives of a National Military Appreciation Month.

NO RESPONSE FROM JUSTICE GINSBURG

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, last month a dozen of my colleagues and I sent a letter to a Supreme Court Justice. In the letter we questioned her ties to the NOW Legal Defense Fund. She speaks regularly to the group. There is a lecture series named after her, and she has served on its board in the past; but she continues to hear cases argued before her in which the NOW Legal Defense Fund, which is now called Legal Momentum, files briefs.

In January, she gave opening remarks for the fourth installment of her lecture series. Two weeks earlier, she took the legal defense's side in a medical screening case.

Federal law requires recusal when a judge's outside legal activities, "cast reasonable doubt on the capacity to decide impartially any issue that may come before them." This Justice has official ties to a group that participates in cases before the Court. That sounds like reasonable doubt to me. But this Justice has yet to respond to an official inquiry from Members of a co-equal branch of government. Professional courtesy warrants at least an acknowledgement that she received the letter, but not even that.

Justice Ginsburg should acknowledge our concerns and recuse herself from cases involving any group with which she has official ties.

THE WAR ON TRUTH

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, the administration, aided and abetted by some Republicans, have launched another undeclared war, this time a sneak attack on the truth.

Republicans launched a sneak attack on Senator JOHN KERRY in this Chamber with a blatant disregard for dignity, heroism, and patriotism, or the facts. In so doing, Republicans have dishonored every American veteran and dishonored the people's House.

Republicans have staked out divisive new ground and every American ought to know it. Republicans have trampled patriotism, heroism, and the service of every American called to defend America.

Senator JOHN KERRY is a decorated war hero. He did not get those Purple Hearts because they just hand them out. He was shot defending his country. He was not missing in action during the Vietnam War. The President was MWA, missing without action.

These are the facts.

9/11 PANEL UNDER CLOUD

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I released a letter signed by 75 Members of Congress to Commissioner Jamie Gorelick. We have serious concerns about her impartiality as a member of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States.

Commissioner Gorelick never should have accepted the position in the first place. As Deputy Attorney General in the Clinton Justice Department, she cannot be objective, especially when their policies may have contributed to America's vulnerability.

If Commissioner Gorelick does not testify before the commission and respond to our letter, then a cloud will hang over the commission that brings into question its independence and supposed non-partisanship.

THE ECONOMY AND UNEMPLOYMENT

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to urge my colleagues to support an extension of unemployment benefits. During the first 6 months of 2004, an estimated 83,000 workers in the L.A. and Long Beach metropolitan area will have exhausted their jobless benefits. We hear that jobs are coming, but the anxiety is there. Our workforce is waiting to see where the jobs are.

And in my district alone, I represent the San Gabriel Valley, unemployment rates remain high. In East Los Angeles and the city of South El Monte it has

remained at over 10 percent for over 3 years. In fact, the national Latino unemployment rate is 7.4 percent, way above the national, 28 percent higher than it was just 3 years ago.

And who do we have to thank? This administration. The unemployment rate is especially high among Latino youth. It is about double.

I am urging the President and my colleagues to support these young people and help restore vital funding for job training and to extend unemployment benefits to the 2.9 million unemployed workers in America.

MEDICARE CHANGES ENCOURAGE LIFE-SAVING PREVENTATIVE CARE

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last year President Bush signed into law historic bipartisan legislation that adds critically needed benefits to Medicare and solidifies the program for future generations.

I have been traveling throughout the Second District of South Carolina to discuss these changes, and the seniors I talk to are enthusiastic to learn that for the first time Medicare will encourage preventative care.

First and foremost, the new prescription drug benefit will allow seniors to afford the medicine they need to prevent disease.

Yet, while the prescription drug benefit has been widely publicized, many seniors are unaware of other important preventative measures now available to them. All newly enrolled beneficiaries will be covered for physicals, cardiovascular-screening blood tests including cholesterol, and diabetes screening for at-risk beneficiaries. These benefits do not have deductibles or co-pays, to make sure there are no hurdles for seniors with limited resources.

These screenings will catch treatable, manageable conditions that otherwise would result in senior health consequences, preventing a healthy and happy retirement.

In conclusion, may God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

MEDICAL LIABILITY REFORM

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, it was 13 months ago that we in this House passed meaningful medical liability reform. Our President, President Bush, has said that he will sign that legislation if we will just get it to him. And today it languishes on the other side of the Capitol. The Democratic candidate for President has already been on record as either voting "no" or has